(a) what guidelines have been laid down by Government to regulate and control the functioning of the private prevent extertion/exploitation of foreign and domestic tourist; and

(b) what steps have been taken for coordinating the efforts in the public and private sectors in this field?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) To ensure acceptable standards of amenities and service for tourists, guidelines have been formulated for approval of hotels at project/planning stage and for their classification on becoming functional. There is also, a scheme for granting recognition/approval to travel agents, tour operators, tourist transport operators and guides.

(b) These guidelines apply to both public and private sector in the tourism industry.

Stock Exchange membership to Banks and Financial Institutions

*191. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to allow Banks and Financial Institutions to be members of Stock Exchanges in order to avoid brokers interference, in the light of the recent stock scam:

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) Government have already amended , in July, 1987 rule 8(4) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957 in order to make a company as defined in the Companies Act, 1956 eligible to be elected as a member of a Stock Exchange subject to certain conditions. According to the amended rule, the Governing Body of a Stock Exchange shall admit, when so recommended by the Government, the Industrial Finance Corporation, the Industrial Development Bank of India, the Life Insurance Corporation of India, the General Insurance Corporation of India, the Unit Trust of India, the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India, the subsidiaries of any of these institutions, and any subsidary of the State Bank of India or any Nationalised Bank set up for providing merchant banking services, buying and selling securities and other similar activities, as a member of the Exchange.

Withdrawal of Foreign Airlines from Operation in India

*192. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a number of foreign airlines are withdrawing their operation from India;

(b) if so, what are the names thereof and also the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have estimated the loss in tourist inflow as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, what other steps Government are contemplating to offset any fall in tourist inflow in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) While some of the foreign arilines have discontinued their operations to India in exercise of their commercial judgement, certain other foreign airlines have increased their operations to India. Since April, 1991, Subena (Belgian) Airline and Czechoslovak Airlines have discontinued their operations to India; PANAM Airlines have been replaced by Delta Airlines. The withdrawal of services by some of the airlines have been more than offset by operation of additional flights by other carriers. No loss in terms of tourist inflow is, therefore, anticipated.